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COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Overall review of the statistical work of the international organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains an overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations for the period January 1990 to December 1991, and up to November 1992 for the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat. This report contains information on major achievements and new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in response to the request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-sixth session. 1/ The report contains a description of achievements in outputs and activities of the statistical services of the United Nations system and other international organizations during the biennium 1990-1991 and up to approximately November 1992 for the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT).

2. Additional information on the work of the organizations is contained in other reports also before the Commission.

3. The following organs, organizations and agencies have been included in this report: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), World Tourism Organization (WTO) and Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

4. The report has been structured on a subject-matter basis as requested by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its fifteenth session (see E/CN.3/1993/21, annex II, para. 45). The classification used is the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Programme Classification, which is broadly in use in the United Nations system for reporting on programmes on a system-wide basis. The information that had been provided by organizations for the present report when it was intended to be structured on an organization basis was used and rearranged. Some difficulties in classification and in reflecting broad general statements by organizations were met. Decisions were made on a pragmatic basis.

5. The decisions were as follows:

(a) In general, each item of information was placed in one item of the classification only. Some exceptions were made to improve clarity. For example, some ILO items were placed in labour and population, labour and income, and labour and prices. Environmental accounts information was placed under national accounts and environment. Activities relating to measurement of women's contribution were placed under women and national accounts. Some FAO activities were placed under agriculture and trade.

(b) The text under each classification item was structured by organization in a fixed organization order.

(c) Multi-subject items such as statistical yearbooks were placed under "Other statistics n.e.c.".

(d) All seminars, workshops, household surveys, and training and technical cooperation missions were placed under "Statistical capacity building and training", except where it was clear that a seminar or workshop was aimed at methodological development, in which case it was placed under the subject-matter heading. In some cases, the objective was not clear and the item was included under "Statistical capacity building and training". All technical cooperation activities were placed under "Statistical capacity building and training" and not under the particular subject-matter. Meetings of regional conferences of statisticians, governing statistical bodies of specialized agencies and other similar meetings were also included under "Statistical capacity building and training". The entire section was structured according to the fixed organization order.

(e) Outputs and activities related to individual commodities, covering mixed data such as trade, production, prices and consumption, were placed under "Other economic statistics".

(f) Population and housing censuses were placed under "Population".

6. Three special groupings were created for the functional areas of "Classifications", "Technological development and databases" and "Coordination". This was done generally by duplicating notable information from the subject-matter entries, which gives an indication of the activities carried out in those three areas of work that are known to be of interest to the Commission.

7. Several general statements by organizations relating to reasons for cancellation of outputs or disruptions of work programmes could not be accommodated in the classification.

8. The report is selective, providing information on those outputs and activities that organizations considered the most important in their overall work during the period covered. It does not provide a comprehensive statement of outputs and activities under each heading.

9. Improvements can be made in the report to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session based on comments made at the present session and through discussions in the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the Working Group.

I. SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES IN SELECTED AREAS OF STATISTICS

A. Demographic and social statistics

1. Population

UNSTAT

10. The following publications were issued as part of the support for the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme: Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses; Emerging Trends and Issues in Population and Housing Censuses; Manual on Population Census Data Processing Using Microcomputers; Handbook of Population and Housing Censuses (Part I, Planning, Organization and Administration of Population and Housing Censuses, and Part II, Demographic and Social Characteristics). Other publications in demographic and social statistics included the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, volume I. Legal, organizational and technical aspects. Working papers and training materials particularly focusing on the implementation of supplementary census recommendations were prepared, including a measurement of the economically active population and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3 (ISIC, Rev.3). Papers were also prepared on the improvement of vital statistics.

11. The following regular publications were issued: Demographic Yearbook (annual), Population and Vital Statistics Reports (quarterly). In addition, ad hoc requests for special time series were provided to users.

ECE

12. In the field of social and demographic statistics, the annual origin/destination matrices for the flow of migrants between ECE countries were published for the years 1987 to 1990. A special publication containing about 50 papers on various aspects of changing population age structures in ECE countries and selected other countries (China, New Zealand and Zimbabwe) is to be published jointly by ECE and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

ILO

13. Statistical Sources and Methods. A revised and expanded edition of volume 3 of the Statistical Sources and Methods series, on the economically active population, employment, unemployment and hours of work (household surveys), and volume 5, containing methodological information about population censuses for 126 countries, were published. A technical paper was prepared on an evaluation of ILO methodology for world-wide projections of the economically active population.

2. Housing

UNSTAT

14. The proposed publication Handbook for Statistics and Indicators on Housing was cancelled.

15. UNSTAT and UNCHS jointly developed a human settlements questionnaire, which was sent by UNSTAT to all national statistical offices. The results of this questionnaire, which are now being compiled, will be entered into a database for use by the Centre and other users of human settlements statistics.

ECE

16. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued on a regular basis in the field of housing.

UNCHS

17. The following publications were issued: (a) Statistical Annex to the Global Report on Human Settlements, published by Oxford University Press in 1987; (b) Human Settlements Basic Statistics 1990 (published in Arabic, English, French and Spanish) (HS/176/90 A/E/F/S); (c) Graphic Presentation of Basic Human Settlements Statistics (28 thematic maps) (HS/254/91E).

18. At the present time, the Centre is not collecting statistics directly from national statistical offices but it receives, although not on a regular basis, human settlements statistics from housing ministries in member States. UNCHS receives national-level statistics through UNSTAT and is an extensive user of data from the Population Division and from other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank and IMF. These official, secondary data sources form the basis for the compilation of human settlements statistics for storage in a computerized database and the production of a number of statistical publications.

19. UNCHS also gathers human settlements statistics from programmes and projects executed in more than 100 countries by its Technical Cooperation Division. Since a great amount of data stemming from these technical cooperation activities are at the city/urban level, the Centre established a City Data Programme (CDP) in 1991.

20. At present, two projects are executed under the CDP, namely, the global UNCHS-CitiBase project and the national-level Kenya Pilot Project (KPP). The first project aims at establishing a global database on cities, including the development of database application software. The objectives of the KPP are to design a national urban data collection and dissemination system that will provide efficient statistical support to urban policy-making and to strengthen the statistical capacity in eight pilot cities where it is now being tested, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Kenya and the Ministries involved in urban policy and planning. A series of training workshops are scheduled to achieve the latter objective.

21. Since 1991, the database system known as the Human Settlements Statistical Data Base (HSDB.stat) has been disseminated free of charge to member Governments, international organizations and selected non-governmental organizations.

22. With respect to methodological work in the area of human settlements statistics, it is worthwhile to mention the UNSTAT publication Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics: Human Settlements Statistics - A Technical Report (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/51) which was prepared in close collaboration with UNCHS as well as work carried out in the context of the monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS). The Centre, together with the World Bank, is carrying out a Housing Indicator Programme under which policy-sensitive indicators were developed and tested in 35 countries. In addition, a methodology to measure shelter adequacy by means of a set of five core indicators has recently been developed in the Centre.

3. Labour

ILO

23. The Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), which came into force on 24 April 1988, has so far been ratified by 24 countries, and the Bureau of Statistics continued its work on comparative analyses, commenting on reports relating to the application of the Convention.

24. Statistics of strikes and lock-outs. The Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Statistics of Strikes and Lock-outs met at Geneva in April 1990. The results of its discussions and of the further work carried out by the Office on the measurement of basic indicators and of the characteristics of strikes and lock-outs are the basis of the report and draft resolution to be presented to the Fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 1993.

25. Income from employment. Work during 1990-1991 continued on statistics of income from employment and on descriptions of sources and methods of measurement of such income. The results of that work will be presented in a chapter of the General Report to be discussed by the Fifteenth ICLS in 1993.

26. International Classification of Status in Employment. A report was prepared for discussion by the Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics in January-February 1992. It summarizes the issues concerning the revision and expansion of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE), makes a number of suggestions based on the work that has been carried out since 1989 and presents a draft proposal for a revised and expanded ICSE.

27. A technical paper on the measurement of working time has been prepared and will be a chapter of the General Report to the Fifteenth ICLS. Two papers on measuring the demand for labour were also prepared.

28. Labour accounting system. Work during 1990-1991 continued on the development of a labour accounting system and will be presented as a chapter of the General Report for discussion by the Fifteenth ICLS.

29. Technical papers were prepared on a comparative analysis of projections of the activity rates of France for the period 1985-2010 (by ILO and France's National Institute of Statistics (INSEE)).

30. Year Book and Bulletin of Labour Statistics. The timing of the publication of the Year Book has been rescheduled to October of each year to enable the inclusion of more up-to-date data. It is for this reason that during the transition period, the Retrospective Year Book 1945-1989 was published in 1989. This was then followed by the 1989-1990 and 1991 Year Books, which contained a new table in the chapter on consumer price indices. Work continued as normal for the Bulletin of Labour Statistics, with new or updated methodological descriptions of the consumer price index series and 12 methodological articles on various aspects of labour statistics, including the publication of a new statistical series on the level of education of the economically active population (for 52 countries). Eight supplements were also issued, with updates of the series appearing in the quarterly bulletin.

31. Work continued on the improvement and expansion of the ILO labour statistics databases (LABORSTA) and users' access to them. More LABORSTA data were disseminated on computer-readable media, mainly on diskettes; such extracts were made from all but one of the chapters of the Year Book. Statistical coverage of the on-line system was also extended to cover LABORSTA data for nearly all the chapters of the Year Book.

32. ILO October Inquiry. Two separate editions of the Bulletin of Labour Statistics - October Inquiry Results included data on occupational wages and hours of work for about 85 countries and on retail food prices for about 140 countries.

33. Statistical Sources and Methods. A revised and expanded edition of volume 3 of the Statistical Sources and Methods series, on the economically active population, employment, unemployment and hours of work (household surveys), and volume 5, containing methodological information about population censuses for 126 countries, were published.

34. Occupational classifications. The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88), containing complete descriptions of some 550 occupational groups, was published in English, French and Spanish.

35. Annual estimates of employment and unemployment. Internationally comparable annual estimates of employment and unemployment for 26 countries were published in the Bulletin of Labour Statistics and a technical guide on the practical methods of computing such estimates was issued as a working paper.

36. A technical paper was prepared on an evaluation of ILO methodology for the world-wide projections of the economically active population.

37. Minimum wages. A new database was established for statistics by legal minimum wage rates and currently contains information for 30 countries from 1980 onwards.

4. Education

UNESCO

38. Six statistical reports disseminating comparative data at the international level and focusing on primary education were published; four reference documents for regional and international ministerial conferences and governmental expert meetings on education were produced.

39. The autonomous and integrated software package for the analysis, diagnosis and assessment of the quantitative development of education systems, EDSTATS, which was first issued in 1988 and widely distributed, was further developed and a new version, EDSTATS Plus, was issued.

40. An expert meeting on international indicators of education was organized and, as a follow-up, a set of international indicators was prepared for the World Education Report 1991. An expert meeting was organized to advise on the preparation of the international methodological framework for the development of statistics on adult and non-formal education.

5. Culture and mass communication

UNESCO

41. In the "Statistical report and studies" series one report was finalized on the international flow of cultural goods, while another was prepared on the world press. A document was produced on the principal languages spoken throughout the world.

6. Health

WHO

42. A recent activity was the establishment of a database containing the data collected as part of monitoring the progress and evaluating the implementation of national health-for-all strategies. Time series data on the global indicators at the national, regional and global levels have been consolidated and validated. The draft global review of the Implementation of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000: second evaluation and eighth report on the world health situation was prepared for publication.

43. Two documents, "Global estimates for health situation assessment and projections" (WHO/HST/90.2) and "Demographic data for health situation assessment and projections" (WHO/HST/90.3), are currently being used throughout WHO for monitoring the world health situation during the 1990s.

44. The World Health Statistical Annual currently presents global statistical information designed to provide both national and global overviews of changing trends in health status and causes of death.

45. The WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS) was established in 1990, and is available "on-line" throughout WHO headquarters. It brings together a wide variety of computerized health and health-related databases and applications, both within and outside WHO, including data from national monitoring and evaluation reports, country demographic data, drug information and statistics related to smoking, and reports on AIDS and disasters.

46. In early 1991, a new activity was begun to review and develop methodology for health monitoring, evaluation and future trend assessment. Practical trend analysis and projection methods, "scenarios" and simulation, including computer models, are also being increasingly used in support of health planning and policy-making. With regard to monitoring, there has also been a great deal of new activity among international agencies in developing and promoting health indicators. This new activity has thus become the focus for WHO efforts to develop indicators and share methods and results of indicator development with other agencies.

47. Support was provided to other programmes and regional offices in assessing national health monitoring practices and in the design and conduct of rapid evaluation of the quality of care and patients' satisfaction. An informal consultation was held at Geneva in November 1990 to explore the strengths and weaknesses of 15 different rapid assessment techniques, which were published in the World Health Statistics Quarterly, volume 44, No. 3.

48. The Regional Office for Europe carried out an analysis of data from eight epidemiological studies on the relationship between risk factors (smoking, blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index) and risk of death from cardiovascular diseases, cancer and all causes. A corresponding mortality model for microcomputers was developed to facilitate the prediction of trends in mortality.

49. A new regional activity was initiated in four countries of the Americas to monitor the impact of different levels of well-being and changes in living conditions on the health of distinct national population groups.

50. The European office compiled a questionnaire on patients' satisfaction to assess the quality of health care. It was successfully tested in four member States and a revised questionnaire was made available for use by countries.

51. The recommendations of the International Conference for the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) were adopted by the World Health Assembly in

May 1990, and as a result ICD-10 is being finalized. A new format has been adopted using an alphanumeric coding scheme, which allows for a considerably increased number of entries and fulfils the request of some member States for a very detailed classification of diseases.

52. The International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH), issued in 1980, is being updated to be compatible with ICD-10 in the categories used, and to take into account changes in the perception of disablement and in attitudes towards it. UNSTAT is actively collaborating in the further development and refinement of ICIDH.

7. Distribution of income and consumption

ECE

53. Work in the field of economic statistics concentrated on several areas, including household income statistics. The Conference of European Statisticians initiated a revision of the United Nations "Provisional (1977) Guidelines on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation of Households".

ECLAC

54. A report on income distribution was issued.

ILO

55. The Compendium of National Practices on the Methodology of Household Income and Expenditure Surveys has been published in English as Statistical Sources and Methods, volume 6. It covers 86 household income and expenditure surveys conducted throughout the world between 1977 and 1990. Work is continuing on comparative basic statistics on the structure, composition and distribution of household income and expenditure.

World Bank

56. A new publication emphasizing income distribution was released.

8. Poverty monitoring

ECLAC

57. Report on magnitude of poverty was issued.

ILO

58. Technical papers were prepared on the use of household budget surveys for poverty measurement and analysis.

World Bank

59. The Bank's concerns with poverty issues were actively pursued. A Handbook on Poverty Monitoring was prepared and issued to guide its work on assessing poverty. A new publication emphasizing measures of poverty was released.

9. Role of women

UNSTAT

60. In cooperation with the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and ECA, the following publications were issued in English and French concerning the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women: Handbook on the Compilation of Statistics in Africa and Synthesis of Pilot Studies on the Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Industry, Trade and Services in Four African Countries. The technical report Methods of Measuring Women's Economic Activity (Series F, No. 59) was completed and submitted for publication. The technical report on methods of compilation, valuation and analysis for accounts of women's contribution to economic activity was completed in draft form and distributed for comment. The manuscript of an experimental compendium of statistics on women in the informal sector, including case-studies in nine countries, was completed in preparation for publication.

61. Version 2 of the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (Wistat) was issued on microcomputer diskettes and the Wistat Users Guide and Reference Manual was submitted for reproduction.

62. A special publication on social trends, combining statistics, text and charts, entitled The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics, was published with the collaboration of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and a technical meeting on the preparation of the second issue for publication in 1994/95 was held. An accompanying wall chart, "The situation of women 1990: selected indicators", was also published. The manuscript of an experimental compendium of statistics on women in the informal sector, including case-studies in nine countries, was completed in preparation for publication.

63. The proposed report on progress on reporting of statistics and indicators on women was cancelled.

10. Other social demographic and related statistics

UNSTAT

64. In the field of information technologies, a technical report entitled Guide to Computerization of Information Systems in Criminal Justice was published in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (CSDHA).

65. The Compendium of Disability Statistics was issued. A new "Statistical chart on children: early child development and learning achievement 1990", was issued in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO in connection with the World Summit for Children. Papers were also prepared on the improvement of statistics on disability. The second issue of the special series on youth statistics, "Statistical charts and indicators on the situation of youth 1970-1990", was published in cooperation with CSDHA.

66. The Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators 1988 was issued.

67. A number of outputs and activities were completed on the development of statistics and indicators for social monitoring, including those listed under the present section (paras. 64-66) and under the role of women (paras. 60-62). On methodology, UNSTAT continued close cooperation with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) on indicators of patterns of consumption and qualitative aspects of development (E/CN.3/1993/16).

ECLAC

68. A report on statistics and social indicators was issued.

ECA

69. In the field of statistical development, the following publications were issued: African Socio-Economic Indicators 1987 and African Socio-Economic Indicators 1988.

FAO

70. Activities were discontinued on socio-economic indicators and social statistics.

World Bank

71. Several new publications emphasizing data on social indicators and African economic and social data were released.

B. Economic statistics

1. Agriculture

ECE

72. Work in the field of economic statistics concentrated on agriculture statistics. A volume entitled Readings on Food and Agricultural Statistics for Use in Market Economies was published.

FAO

73. Data compilation activities continued in maintaining and updating world-wide and long-term series on production, trade and utilization of crops, livestocks and livestock products. This information was used for derived statistics, such as food balance sheets and commodity balances, index numbers of production and trade, and other socio-economic indicators. A new data bank was established on external assistance to agriculture.

74. Extracts from the FAO data bank were issued in regular publications, such as the FAO Production Yearbook, the FAO Trade Yearbook, the 1984-1986 Food Balance Sheets and the Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics, and were released in various forms in reply to ad hoc requests. In 1991, the new product AGROSTAT.PC was released to disseminate, on floppy disks, a large part of the statistical data bank.

75. Implementation of the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) project continued in 1990 with the establishment of corporate rules and standards regarding data content, coding of data sources and quality and statistical methodology to be applied. Several database management systems (DBMS) were also tested and finally a software (INGRES) was selected. In 1991 a systems development team started the customization of INGRES software.

76. Draft manuals were prepared for the purpose of using them as training material in national/regional training programmes to be organized in developing countries. The most significant training materials prepared were the following: Handbook on Economic Accounts for Agriculture, Manual on Fertilizer Statistics and Manual on Collecting Livestock Statistics.

77. Publications had to be suspended or postponed (i.e., Livestock Statistics) because of staff vacancies owing to the financial situation of the Organization. Compilation of a data bank on public expenditure to agriculture had to be abandoned because of the poor and declining quality of responses from member countries.

2. Industrial statistics

UNSTAT

78. The regular recurrent compilations were issued or submitted for printing in industrial statistics (General Industrial Statistics and Commodity Production Statistics). The 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics: Principal Indicators and Related Data was also issued. In addition, computed tapes, diskettes and printouts were provided to users in response to ad hoc requests in the field of industrial statistics. Work on a technical report on strategies for measuring industrial structure and growth was initiated and a practical guide to aid countries in carrying out the conversion of revision 2 to revision 3 of ISIC was completed. The Handbook on Statistical Programmes for Household and Small-scale Industries was postponed owing to a lack of resources.

ECLAC

79. A report on manufacturing production was issued.

UNIDO

80. The following publications were issued: Handbook of Industrial Statistics 1990 (1990); African Industry in Figures 1990 (1991); ASEAN Industry in Figures (1991); Industrial Statistics for Research Purposes - Methodology Applied in the Development and Maintenance of the UNIDO Industrial Statistics Data Base (1991); An Inventory of Industrial Statistics: UNIDO Data Base (1990, 1991).

81. Further methodological development for data adjustment and estimation in the two databases (industrial statistics, commodity balance) was made.

3. Energy

UNSTAT

82. A technical report, Energy Statistics: A Manual for Developing Countries, was published. A workshop on petroleum statistics was held in Sochi, Russian Federation, in 1991. The regular recurrent publications in energy statistics were issued (Energy Statistics Yearbooks 1988 and 1989 and Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles 1988).

ECE

83. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued on a regular basis in the field of energy.

IAEA

84. The Agency publishes annually a comprehensive overview report entitled Nuclear Power: Status and Trends, based in particular on data in the Agency's Energy and Economic Data Bank (EEDB) and the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS). A booklet entitled Energy electricity and nuclear power estimates for the period up to 2005 (Reference Data Series No. 1) is published annually, using data from EEDB and PRIS and results of the Agency and other international demand projections. The Agency cooperates with industrialized member States and with other international organizations in the use of methodologies for forecasting electricity demand in the developing countries as a basis for studying the role of nuclear power. Within this context, a technical committee on Energy and nuclear power planning: United Nations and other international organization approaches, meets annually.

4. Services

UNSTAT

85. In cooperation with the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics, a technical report was issued entitled A Model Survey of Computer Services. Several technical papers were prepared and circulated, including "Volume measures in ISIC 8 and 9 service industries", "Working notes on the proposed methodologies for volume measures of services and service industries", "The use of the Provisional Central Product Classification", and "Statistics on trade in services in Asia". The latter study, which was carried out in collaboration with UNCTAD and ESCAP, was based on missions to several Asian countries. UNSTAT continues to be active in the work of the Voorburg Group.

ECLAC

86. A report on improvement of service statistics was issued.

UNCTAD

87. Work continued on the establishment in UNCTAD of a database comprising statistics on production, trade and employment in services.

GATT

88. Another recent development is the GATT Data Base on International Trade in Services, using information from the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), ILO and UNSTAT and national sources. The main components are country data on international trade in goods and services, domestic production and employment for the years 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1980-1988, where available.

5. International trade

UNSTAT

89. The publication Methods Used in Compiling the United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade, volume II, was issued. Work continued on completing commodity indexes for the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC Rev.3). Amendments to SITC Rev.3 were issued reflecting amendments made to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). Library research is under way on country practices in compiling international trade statistics as a first step in revising the United Nations recommended concepts and definitions (see E/CN.3/1993/15, para. 14). A questionnaire on country practices was jointly prepared by UNCTAD, FAO, IMF, World Bank, GATT, OECD, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and UNSTAT and distributed to countries for completion to supplement the library research. A review was undertaken with GATT of the overall future relationship between HS and SITC (see E/CN.3/1993/15/Add.1).

90. Systems development work was undertaken to analyse and improve the quality and integrity of data held in the international trade statistics commodity trade database (COMTRADE) and to improve on-line user services. Systems work was commenced to enable the inclusion of trade data according to HS in the database.

91. All scheduled publications of international trade statistics were issued with an improvement in timeliness of the International Trade Statistics Yearbook. The country and year coverage of the commodity trade statistics database was improved. Limited data on goods loaded and unloaded in seaborne trade was collected by questionnaire and made available to UNCTAD. The International Trade Statistics Yearbook, volume III, was cancelled.

92. Two meetings were organized by UNSTAT, the World Bank and GATT, involving those organizations and ECE, ECLAC, UNCTAD, FAO, IMF, EUROSTAT, OECD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), at Geneva in November 1990 and in Washington, D.C., in June 1992, to improve coordination and the substantive work in the international organizations on international trade statistics - concepts and methods, data collection from countries, estimation for non-reported data and adjustments of national data to improve international comparability.

ECE

93. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued on a regular basis in the field of trade in engineering and chemical products.

ESCAP

94. The annual publication Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific has been issued on a regular basis.

ECLAC

95. A report on foreign trade statistics was issued.

ECA

96. The following activities were undertaken in the area of economic statistics: (a) a seminar on international trade statistics was held; (b) Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A (Direction of trade), Nos. 31 and 32, and Series C (Summary tables), Nos. 8 and 9, were issued, and Series A, No. 33, and Series C, No. 10, were finalized and sent for printing.

UNCTAD

97. The following publications were issued: Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics, 1990 and 1991 editions. UNCTAD has also developed a trade information system on the trade control measures of the developing countries. The database provides a computerized link between foreign trade statistics at the country and product level and the corresponding tariffs, para-tariffs and non-tariff measures, as well as the preferential trading arrangements affecting trade among the developing countries.

FAO

98. Data compilation activities continued in maintaining and updating world-wide and long-term series on production, trade and utilization of crops, livestocks and livestock products. Extracts from the FAO data bank were issued in regular publications such as the FAO Trade Yearbook.

World Bank

99. As a user of trade data, the Bank has been cognizant of the weaknesses in COMTRADE. Working with other international agencies and bodies (GATT, IMF, OECD, EUROSTAT and UNSTAT), it has endeavoured to improve the quality of data and proposed procedures for estimating missing data and preparing estimates for missing countries.

GATT

100. Under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, files were developed to assist in the evaluation of tariff proposals. They comprise two basic components: the tariff schedule and import statistics. Files have been prepared at the tariff line level for countries covering close to 95 per cent of GATT-member trade. The resulting information is only available to contracting parties that meet certain criteria.

101. Concurrently, the development of the Integrated Data Base is proceeding. It will contain tariff line data on imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The tariff lines will be based on the HS. Over time, it is expected that the Integrated Data Base will be expanded to include

exports and other categories of non-tariff measures on which information is supplied by contracting parties.

102. Ongoing statistical activities include the preparation of the annual report on international trade.

6. Transport

ECE

103. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued on a regular basis in the field of transport and road traffic accidents.

ICAO

104. Some of the statistical activities of the Organization were reviewed by the Statistics Panel, which is an advisory body composed of 15 experts from different regions of the world. In an effort to resolve a long-standing controversy, the Panel examined a number of possible alternatives to the traffic by flight stage statistics programme and eventually recommended that the existing programme should be maintained but that ICAO should encourage reporting of the data disaggregated by flight number or itinerary. This recommendation was approved by the Council and implemented immediately.

105. The second recommendation of the Panel concerned automation plans for the ICAO statistics programme. The Panel concluded that, in order to improve the efficiency and quality of the ICAO statistics programme as well as to reflect trends and positive experience among member States, the Organization should place increased emphasis on the use of microcomputers and diskettes. This recommendation was also approved by the Council but its full implementation was somewhat hampered by a shortage of funds.

106. The fifteenth and sixteenth editions of the ICAO statistical yearbook Civil Aviation Statistics of the World were issued during this period. In addition, 24 digests of statistics were issued in the various areas of the ICAO statistics programme. The production of statistical publications continued to be adversely affected by a shortage of resources.

107. As in the past, the Organization provided air transport statistics to various United Nations bodies, other international organizations and regional organizations. Efforts were made to further strengthen relations with international and regional organizations concerned with civil aviation, in order to minimize duplication in the collection and publication of statistics.

7. Communication and tourism

UPU

108. Statistical activities of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) have the following broad objectives:

(a) To systematically record data on postal traffic volumes so as to deduce general trends and make extrapolations for the future;

(b) To collect information on staffing patterns and volumes, financial operating performance, performance of the postal financial services, technical means etc. of UPU member countries;

(c) To determine and quantify the level of services available to the public;

(d) To determine the evolution of the postal services in general over a period of time;

(e) To promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services.

109. Data are collected by means of a questionnaire which is circulated annually. These data are then examined for plausibility and consistency, and are subsequently entered in the computer where they are subjected to additional checks for consistency. Corrections communicated are also incorporated. This information is then published in a loose-leaf binder entitled Statistique des services postaux (Postal services statistical yearbook), which is then circulated among member countries, and also made available on demand to other interested parties. The edition pertaining to data for the year 1988 was published in April 1990.

110. Statistics were first computerized in 1982, when UPU acquired a computer, and information from 1964 onwards has since been stored on disk. This information is used to make up reports at prescribed intervals.

111. The most recent five-year report on the development of the postal services was prepared for the information of the UPU Congress held in Washington, D.C., in November/December 1989. This will be supplemented by a three-year report covering the period 1987-1989, which was scheduled for publication in 1991.

WTO

112. The following statistical publications were issued: Yearbook of Tourism Statistics, 1990 and 1991 editions; Compendium of Tourism Statistics, 1990 and 1991 editions; Travel and Tourism Barometer, 1990, 1991 and first 1992 editions. Emphasis was placed on the improvement of the coverage, timeliness, comparability and consistency of data. All the data collected by WTO are stored in a computerized database. A data response service for information requested on an ad hoc basis is available for members and other users.

113. One of the major tasks pursued by WTO has been to standardize tourism statistics world wide. Within the framework of its standards and methods activities, WTO organized an International Conference on Travel and Tourism Statistics, which was held at Ottawa, Canada, in June 1991. Further to the

Ottawa Conference, the following documents have been prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session: "Draft recommendations on tourism statistics" (E/CN.3/1993/14) and "Draft Standard International Classification of Tourism Activities (SICTA)" (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/83).

8. Money and banking, interest rates and other private finance, public sector finance, balance of payments and external debt, exchange rates and capital flows

UNCTAD

114. Statistical annexes, containing detailed statistics on flows of resources from the member States of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to the developing countries for the period 1989-1990, were prepared for the reports on Financial Solidarity for Development.

World Bank

115. The Bank improved its estimates of private non-guaranteed and short-term debt not covered by the Bank's Debtor Reporting System.

116. The International Working Group on External Debt Statistics, of which the Bank is a member, met in June 1989 to discuss its future work programme. The joint publication, External Debt: Definitions, Statistical Coverage and Methodology, issued in March 1988, dealt with stock data and left several issues, including questions concerning flow data, for future work. During this meeting, it was decided to prepare a second publication that would deal with the possible reconciliation of stock and flow data and present the debt data in a balance-of-payments framework.

IMF

117. Work on the process of revising the Fund's Balance of Payments Manual has continued and the fifth edition of the Manual is expected to be published by early 1993. A companion compilation guide to the Manual is also scheduled to be available at that time. The Fund is also further developing its work on the methodology of monetary statistics, with a view to issuing a manual on financial statistics. Work is under way to revise the Fund's Manual on Government Finance Statistics.

118. In December 1989, the Fund established an international Working Party on the Measurement of International Capital Flows to study measurement issues underlying the coverage of international capital flows, and address concerns about world asymmetries in the principal components of the capital account of the balance of payments. The study, which was a follow-up to the study on the statistical discrepancy in world current account balances (the Esteva report), reviewed the procedures and practices, at the national level, underlying the

measurement of capital flows and identified measures needed to improve data in this area. The report of the Working Party (the Godeaux report) was completed in late 1991 and was scheduled for publication in late 1992.

119. The Godeaux report made a number of recommendations, including the need for national compilers to prepare their balance-of-payments accounts in accordance with the Fund's Balance of Payments Manual and that the Fund aim to achieve a greater harmonization of balance-of-payments statistics and try to improve estimates for countries that do not report or report late. Other international organizations were asked to refine their statistical systems to make them more readily usable in balance-of-payments accounts.

9. Prices, including the International Comparison Programme

UNSTAT

120. A technical document entitled "Classification of the GDP by expenditure categories" (World basic headings) was prepared for use in phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The Handbook of the International Comparison Programme was published. Another technical document, entitled "List of core items with detailed specifications", was also prepared for linking various regional comparisons in phase VI of the ICP. In cooperation with the World Bank, an ICP Conference was held at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, August 1990). UNSTAT participated in and presented technical papers at the following meetings: (a) Asia-Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities (Niigata, November 1990); (b) Consultation on the European Comparison Programme within the ICP (Vienna, October 1991); (c) Joint ECE/EUROSTAT Meeting on Purchasing Power Parities (Paris, November 1991); (d) Joint ECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices (Geneva, November 1991); (e) Workshop on ESCAP Regional Specifications for phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (Beijing, September 1992); and (f) Consultation on the European Comparison Programme within the ICP (Vienna, November 1992). An advance issue of the World Results of Real GDP and Purchasing Power (report on phase V of the ICP) is in preparation, with the assistance of EUROSTAT, which has carried out the tabulation work.

ECE

121. Work in the field of economic statistics concentrated on several fields, including international comparisons of macroeconomic data and purchasing power parities, and consumer price statistics.

ESCAP

122. The following technical report was published: Proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities.

ECLAC

123. A report on consumer prices was issued.

UNCTAD

124. The following publications were issued: Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin and a supplement (1970-1991) to the Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin.

ILO

125. Year Book and Bulletin of Labour Statistics. The 1989-1990 and 1991 Year Books contained a new table in the chapter on consumer price indices. Work continued as normal for the Bulletin of Labour Statistics, with new or updated methodological descriptions of the consumer price index series.

126. ILO October Inquiry. Two separate editions of the Bulletin of Labour Statistics - October Inquiry Results - included data on retail food prices for about 140 countries.

World Bank

127. The Bank has played an active role in elaborating procedures that will permit the integration of ICP work into the regular statistical programmes at the country level. Software for processing ICP are being developed in conjunction with EUROSTAT.

10. Industrial property

WIPO

128. In each year of the period under consideration, WIPO published statistics on industrial property relating to the preceding year. For each year, the following publications were issued:

(a) Industrial Property Statistics - Publication A. An abridged version of the final statistics, concerning all types of industrial property rights; it is issued approximately four months before Publication B;

(b) Industrial Property Statistics - Publication B (Part I). The final statistics concerning patents;

(c) Industrial Property Statistics - Publication B (Part II). The final statistics concerning trademarks and service marks, utility models, industrial designs, varieties of plants and micro-organisms.

11. Science and technology

UNESCO

129. In the area of science and technology statistics, the following major activities were carried out:

(a) Time-budget surveys of scientific and technological activities in the higher education sector in two Asian member States were undertaken;

(b) An analytical study on estimated world resources devoted to research and experimental development was prepared and published;

(c) A statistical document for the Conference of the Organization of American States was prepared;

(d) One issue of the Annotated Accessions List of Studies and Reports in the Field of Science Statistics was prepared.

12. National accounts

UNSTAT

130. In cooperation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), the second draft of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) has been completed for presentation to the Commission for adoption. With regard to SNA Handbooks, a revised draft on integrated economic and environmental accounting has been completed; first drafts of application of SNA in countries in transition, input-output tables and a technical report on national accounts compilation have been prepared; and an outline for household sector accounts has been developed. The planned Handbook on National Accounts: External Transactions, was cancelled.

131. The fifth and sixth meetings of the Expert Group on SNA Coordination and several meetings of technical working groups dealing with selected aspects of SNA were held. In October 1992, the Interregional Seminar on the Revision of the SNA was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

132. The regular dissemination of national accounts statistics was continued through the publication of National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables and National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, as well as through the ad hoc distribution of tapes, diskettes and tables. In addition, the following publication was issued in cooperation with INSTRAW and ECA: Synthesis of Pilot Studies on the Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Industry, Trade and Services in Four African Countries. The technical report Methods of Measuring Women's Economic Activity (Series F, No. 59) was completed and submitted for publication. The technical report on methods of compilation, valuation and analysis for accounts of women's contribution to economic activity was completed in draft form and distributed for comment.

ECE

133. Work in the field of economic statistics concentrated on several areas, including statistics of the hidden and informal activities within the production boundary of national accounts. A "guidebook" to statistics on the hidden economy in market economies, comprising papers on methodological and practical issues of dealing with the hidden economy in statistics, is to be published.

ESCAP

134. During the period covered, the following seminars were held: Asian Seminar on the Revision of the System of National Accounts, and Pacific Seminar on the Revision of the System of National Accounts.

ECLAC

135. A report on national accounts was issued.

ECA

136. In the area of economic statistics, the following activities were undertaken: organization of the intergovernmental seminar on the review of the United Nations System of National Accounts.

ESCWA

137. The Expert Group Meeting on National Accounts was held at Tunis in June 1990, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.

ILO

138. Informal sector employment. The Bureau has prepared a report that (a) attempts to clarify the concept of informal sector employment, (b) gives a brief review of past experience in collecting data on the informal sector at the national and international levels and of the major problems involved in such data collection, (c) examines the choice of the measurement unit and proposes a conceptual framework for the measurement of employment in the informal sector, (d) suggests a tentative international statistical reference definition, (e) emphasizes the need for subclassifications of informal sector units and of the population employed in the informal sector by various characteristics and (f) gives an illustrative list of additional data items as they might be needed for further analyses. It also deals with survey methods for the collection of data on the informal sector and makes a number of recommendations on a strategy for data collection. The report was discussed at the Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics, held in January-February 1992.

World Bank

139. In collaboration with UNSTAT, the Bank has carried out case-studies whose aim is to test a framework for compiling environmentally adjusted measures of gross domestic product. A paper reviewing national practices in compilation of environmentally adjusted accounts was prepared. Compilation of environmental indicators was pursued, particularly in respect of urban wastes and the use of national resources. In the context of the revision of SNA, the Bank continued to play an active role through participation in ISWGNA and the Expert Group. The needs of developing countries and of transition economies in adapting SNA to their circumstances have featured in the Bank's contributions to the revision.

13. Other economic statistics

ECE

140. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued on a regular basis in the field of steel and timber.

ECLAC

141. A report on economic censuses was issued.

UNCTAD

142. The following publications were issued: Commodity Yearbook and Tungsten Bulletin, 1991 and 1992 editions. In 1992, the first four issues (quarterly) of the International Tin Statistics Bulletin were published.

GATT

143. Ongoing statistical activities include the collection of trade, production, consumption and price statistics under the various arrangements negotiated under the auspices of GATT (textiles, dairy products, bovine meat, civil aircraft, government procurement) and data preparation for economic research projects.

C. Other statistics

1. Environment

UNSTAT

144. A technical report, Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics: Statistics of the Natural Environment, was published. A revised draft of the SNA handbook of integrated environmental and economic accounting was prepared. The first, second and third meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics were held, at Oslo in May 1990, at

Arusha in February 1992, and at Weisbaden in December 1992 (see E/CN.3/1993/13 and E/CN.3/1993/24).

145. The Intersecretariat Working Group on Environmental Data held its first and second meetings at Geneva in April 1991 and May 1992 (see E/CN.3/1993/13 and E/CN.3/1993/24). A technical report, entitled "Concepts and methods of environment statistics: statistics of the environmental aspects of energy production and use", was postponed to the biennium 1992-1993.

ECE

146. The main preoccupation of the Conference of European Statistics (CES) during the biennium was the preparation of the 1992 Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics. The Compendium was issued in June 1992. It contains two parts. The first part deals with environmental time series and indicators. The second is devoted to a statistical monograph on agriculture and the environment. Conceptual and methodological work resumed towards the end of 1992. A number of draft statistical classifications had been tested during data collection for the Compendium, and the experiences gained in the test gave rise to amended classifications. In this way, the surface freshwater quality classification was finalized for approval by the Conference in 1992; and the environmental protection expenditures and facilities classifications, as well as waste classification, were revised. Also, a first draft marine water quality classification was developed. Finally, the Conference continued to discuss methodological problems of environment statistics at annual work seminars.

ECA

147. The Intergovernmental Working Group on Statistics on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the Context of Environment Statistics in Africa was postponed because the extrabudgetary resources expected could not be secured.

World Bank

148. In collaboration with UNSTAT, the Bank has carried out case-studies whose aim is to test a framework for compiling environmentally adjusted measures of GDP. A paper reviewing national practices in the compilation of environmentally adjusted accounts was prepared. The compilation of environmental indicators was pursued, particularly in respect of urban wastes and the use of national resources.

2. Statistical capacity-building and training

UNSTAT

149. UNSTAT provided substantive support and lectures on United Nations recommended concepts, definitions and classifications in international trade statistics at four seminars/workshops - organized by ECA (Addis Ababa, 26 November-5 December 1990); United Nations (Qingdao, China,

15-23 July 1991); UNSTAT, ESCAP, Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) (Malacca, Malaysia, 11-15 November 1991); United States Department of Commerce (Washington D.C., 14 August 1992).

150. The following workshop report was issued: The 1989 Interregional Workshop on Population Databases and Related Topics. A series of workshops in collaboration with ILO, the regional commissions and Governments were organized to implement in the 1990 censuses the new standards on measurement of the economically active population, ISIC, Rev.3 and ISCO-88. Workshops and seminars were also held on improving statistics on elderly women (jointly with INSTRAW) and disabled persons (jointly with UNESCO, ESCAP and the Government of Thailand).

151. Technical cooperation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1990-1991 amounted to US$ 55 million and the amount budgeted for 1992 is US$ 21 million. The total number of projects relating to the above expenditure was 222 in 101 countries, including 140 projects in demographic statistics/population censuses; 19 in statistical organization/multi-sector statistics; 29 in economic statistics and 34 in data processing.

152. The programme to monitor the achievement of social goals in the 1990s was initiated in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA and UNICEF to assist countries in collecting and using indicators specifically geared to the measurement of social goals adopted in international programmes of action concerning children, education, human development, population and the advancement of women (E/CN.3/1993/20). A large number of technical cooperation activities, including training seminars and ad hoc missions, was also undertaken to assist countries in the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women and special population groups, including children and disabled persons (E/CN.3/1993/12).

153. The third phase of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) was concluded at the end of December 1991. By then 48 countries were participating in NHSCP - 3 more than the target figure of 45. Seychelles, Cayman Islands and Guyana joined NHSCP during 1992. UNSTAT is continuing its support for NHSCP activities as part of its ongoing responsibilities in the field of technical cooperation. There is ongoing and sustained interest in appraisal missions and requests for them have been received from Papua New Guinea, the Congo, Comoros, Albania, Romania and Oman during 1992. During 1992, the Central Coordinating Unit (CCU) has released for distribution the following technical studies: Surveys of Household Economic Activities, Household Surveys of Agriculture in Africa and Household Energy Consumption Surveys. Guidelines for Household Surveys of Health, Guidelines for Preparation of Survey Reports and Dissemination of Data, Sampling Errors in National Household Surveys and Sampling Rare and Elusive Populations have been finalized and are expected to be distributed in the first quarter of 1993. In addition, CCU/NHSCP also hopes to finalize and publish during 1992 French and Arabic translations of the technical study Assessing the Nutritional Status of Young Children and French and Spanish translations of the technical study Household Income and Expenditure Surveys.

ESCAP

154. A total of 114 advisory missions were carried out during the period January 1990 to December 1991. The areas covered by technical assistance were household surveys, energy statistics, population statistics, population censuses and surveys, data processing, microcomputer applications and national accounts.

155. The following meetings were held during 1990, in conjunction with other organizations as indicated: Workshop on Economic Classifications for Population Censuses and Surveys; Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)/ESCAP Workshop on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s (environment statistics and information systems); Asia-Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities and Working Group of Statistical Experts, seventh session; and during 1991: Seminar on the Use of Multiround Surveys for Estimating Vital Statistics; International Statistical Institute (ISI)/ESCAP Workshop on the Statistical Analysis of Demographic and Health Data; former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD)/ESCAP Workshop on PopMap and other Population-related Software; CCC/UNSTAT/ESCAP Seminar on the Harmonized System and International Trade Statistics in Asia and the Pacific Region; SIAP/ESCAP Workshop on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s (use of information as a resource); and Preliminary Seminar on the Development of Statistical Estimating Procedures and Techniques as a Means of Improving the Timeliness of Data.

156. Five training courses related to NHSCP were held: three courses in 1990 - one on sampling and household survey methodology, one on electronic data processing, and one on training trainers in electronic data processing; and two courses in 1991 - one training of trainers course on sampling and household survey methodology and one course on training trainers in electronic data processing. Other training courses held in 1990 were: Training Programme on Rural Energy Statistics, and Second UNICEF/ESCAP Training Workshop on Social Indicators for Children and Women in the Asia-Pacific Region; and in 1991, SIAP/ESCAP Advanced Workshop on Sampling Methodology.

157. An Expert Group Meeting on Improving Human Development Indicators was cancelled owing to a lack of funds. A number of technical meetings and workshops for which project proposals had been prepared did not take place owing to a failure to attract funding support.

ECLAC

158. The regional project "Statistics for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean" concluded with a seminar entitled "Microcomputer system for statistical data processing". Likewise, the project "Support to the preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean" concluded with two seminars: "Computational systems for census planning, conducting and processing" and "Post-census evaluation". On the other hand, within the framework of the regional project "Development and

application of sampling frames and sample designs for integrated household survey programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean", three seminars were held on the subject. In this case, three groups of countries were conformed according to their geographical location and language - two groups of Spanish-speaking countries and one group of English-speaking countries. Finally, since 1991 the regional project "Indicators for social policy formulation in Latin America and the Caribbean" has been undertaken. The immediate objective of this project is to develop analytical tools and indicators to measure prevailing social conditions and to identify the most negatively affected population groups in the countries of the region.

159. With regard to technical cooperation at the national level, the Commission's staff has provided assistance to Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela in various fields, including household surveys, national accounts, short-term indicators, computing aspects and statistics and social indicators. Approximately 16 consultancy missions were carried out.

160. Three reports were issued in the framework of the project "Development and application of sampling frames and sample designs for integrated household survey programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean"; two reports in the framework of the project "Support to the preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean", and one report in the framework of the project "Statistics for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean".

161. In the field of statistical training, ECLAC has provided courses on microcomputing systems for statistical data processing, national accounts, sample frames and sample designs, and methods and generalized software for statistical data processing.

ECA

162. In the field of statistical development, the following activities were carried out: (a) preparation for the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers; (b) organization of meetings and workshops, including the Working Group on the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s (the Working Group formulated a strategy for the implementation of the Plan of Action; the seventh meeting of Directors of Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa; a workshop for trainers involved in middle-level statistical training in French-speaking African countries; a workshop for trainers involved in in-service middle-level statistical training in English-speaking African countries; and the inter-agency meeting on cooperation for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s; (c) 28 missions were carried out, 6 in the area of statistical coordination, 2 in statistical database development, 12 in statistical training, 2 in statistical organization and 6 in statistical capacity assessment and capacity building.

163. In the area of economic statistics, 21 advisory missions were undertaken in ECA member States to assist with the development of basic economic statistics and national accounts.

164. In the field of censuses and surveys, about 163 advisory missions were undertaken during the biennium, in particular under the UNFPA-financed project Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS) and the UNDP-financed project Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA). ILO made a significant contribution to these missions by providing an adviser in household surveys to the ECA regional team. The following workshops and seminars were organized: subregional workshop on census cartography for French-speaking African countries; training seminar on civil registration systems and vital statistics in Africa; subregional workshop on census cartography for English-speaking African countries; training workshop on economic activity topics covered in population and housing censuses for French-speaking African countries.

165. A training workshop on the use of the local area microcomputer network for the development of statistical databases for English-speaking government statisticians could not be organized owing to a lack of funds. It is envisaged to combine this workshop with the one planned for French-speaking government statisticians to be held in the biennium 1992-1993. Also postponed to the biennium 1992-1993 was a training seminar on civil registration systems and vital statistics collection in Africa which is expected to be organized jointly with UNSTAT.

ESCWA

166. Support was given to advisory services rendered to member States by ESCWA regional advisers in national accounts and economic statistics, population statistics and data processing and household surveys.

167. The Statistics Division participated in the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, held at Baghdad in March 1990, the Subsidiary Statistical Commission of the Council for Arab Economic Unity in September 1990, and the Expert Group Meeting on Household Surveys on Health, Nutrition for Children and Illiteracy, in London in April 1990.

168. The Statistics Division participated in the United Nations Inter-Agency Mission to Lebanon (Beirut, July 1991) and in a number of meetings with officials from the General Directorate of Central Statistics and from the Council for Development and Reconstruction for the purpose of the rehabilitation of statistics in Lebanon.

169. The third intergovernmental meeting of heads of central statistical organizations scheduled in the first quarter of 1991 was cancelled.

ILO

170. Technical support and backstopping were provided for Regular Budget Technical Cooperation or UNDP-financed projects in 7 countries; technical advisory missions were undertaken in 14 countries, including 6 in Central and Eastern European countries. Three workshops were organized for these countries on the measurement of employment, unemployment and the use of occupational classifications and on wages statistics. A training course on labour statistics, sponsored by the International Institute of Labour Studies, was organized at the Turin Centre for 23 participants from 19 French-speaking African countries. The following regional statistical advisers were in post: a regional labour statistics adviser, a regional expert on household surveys for Africa and a regional adviser on labour surveys and statistics (post now vacant) for Asia and the South Pacific.

FAO

171. A regional training course on the census of agriculture was organized for the Asia and Pacific region. The Statistics Advisory Committee of Experts met in 1990. Sessions of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics and the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics were held in 1990 and 1991. The FAO/IASI Working Group on Agricultural Statistics of CEGA (Conferencia de Estadisticos Gubernamentales de las Americas) met in 1990 and the FAO/ECE/CES Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics met in 1991. Three workshops were organized at FAO headquarters jointly with the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries; these formed part of the Centre's four-month course on strengthening the statistical system for food policies and strategies.

UNESCO

172. Four national training courses were organized under the regular programme; with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), three seminars on education statistics, which were attended by 270 participants, were also conducted. One national training course on culture and communication statistics was organized. Three national training seminars in science and technology were organized, with about 90 government statisticians and officials participating. Financial and technical support was provided to three member States in the conduct of their national surveys on scientific and technological activities.

ICAO

173. Regional workshops on aviation statistics were organized for States in the African and South American regions. Advice on aviation statistics was provided by regional air transport officers during missions to various countries in their regions.

WHO

174. A new activity aimed at strengthening national epidemiological capabilities and the Organization's ability to support them was launched in 1990.

175. A workshop on improving health information systems for health systems management was organized by the Regional Office for Africa for officials of six States in central Africa, from 28 May to 2 June 1990. Missions were carried out by consultants at the request of seven other African countries in order to evaluate their health information systems and assist in formulating plans to strengthen information support for health systems management.

176. Field epidemiology training programmes were begun in Australia and India, and a field epidemiological surveillance and disease-control project, supported by UNDP, was set up in Bangladesh.

177. With support from WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF, China has designed and tested a system for supervising village doctors and other health workers, using standard reporting forms. The Philippines has implemented a system for measuring the performance of local clinic staff.

178. The Australian Institute of Health was designated as a Collaborating Centre for Classification of Diseases, and will train trainers of coders for ICD-10 in all the English-speaking countries of the Western Pacific region. It joins eight other Collaborating Centres around the world. Since ICD-10 is very different from previous versions, extensive training will have to be conducted in all regions before countries can introduce it for routine use.

World Bank

179. Technical assistance to member countries continued to be a feature of the work of the Bank's data-oriented units. Following a major review of the functioning of statistical systems in member countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the Bank developed proposals for strengthening statistical capacities that are demand driven (STATCAP). The STATCAP proposals were elaborated and are now an integral part of the Addis Ababa Plan.

180. The Bank's programme for integrated household surveys under the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) have been launched in a number of additional countries. Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) programmes were extended in scope, and plans are now in place to commence activities in 30 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Collaborative arrangements with other international survey programmes, including the NHSCP, were enhanced.

181. The Bank continued to work closely with other agencies on the transition economies. Initial steps were taken to identify the technical cooperation needs of the new member States. The needs of developing countries and of transition economies in adapting SNA to their circumstances have featured in the Bank's contributions to the revision of SNA.

182. The Bank continued its efforts to improve the reporting of external debt statistics by member Governments. Some 30 to 40 country missions per year were mounted. Assistance was provided to the new member States in establishing debt reporting systems.

IMF

183. IMF continued to give high priority to extending its activities in the areas of technical assistance and training and in the development of statistical methodologies.

184. The Fund has continued to support the training of national officials in statistical methodology and practices through courses conducted by the Statistics Department at the IMF Institute. The Fund has expanded its programme of technical assistance in statistics through staff visits to member countries, focused at the sectoral level and through a multi-sectoral approach designed to address multiple problems within a consistent macroeconomic framework. The Fund's technical assistance in statistics has been augmented by the long-term assignment of technical experts to member countries and through the use of consultants at headquarters, supported by UNDP, by resources provided by the Japanese authorities, and through the Fund.

185. Following discussions in late 1991 by the Managing Director of the Fund, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the European Communities, the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the President of the World Bank, the organizations concerned agreed to establish a Steering Committee on Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the former Soviet Union. The principal objectives of the Committee are to ensure a coordinated approach to the provision of technical assistance by the international organizations concerned, to coordinate training activities and to promote statistical legislation and institution building in the recipient countries. The Committee held its first meeting at IMF headquarters in March 1992.

UPU

186. One of the broad objectives of the statistical activities of the Universal Postal Union is to determine the direction and volume of technical assistance to UPU member countries.

UNIDO

187. The series of lectures on industrial statistics, held at the Institute for Social Studies at The Hague, were continued. Likewise, lectures on the role of industrial censuses and on the analysis of international competitiveness were held at the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Statistics for Developing Countries.

188. An increasing number of technical cooperation projects are being implemented. These involve improvements in national statistics (censuses,

surveys, improvements in data processing etc.) or application of statistical techniques at the micro-economic level, for example, elements of statistical process control as part of a programme of total quality control.

IASI

189. According to the present organization of the Institute, its activities are oriented as follows:

(a) To complement the work carried out by other organizations concerning the development of governmental statistics in the American region;

(b) To strengthen the role of the Institute regarding academic and professional statistical activities. Emphasis is being placed on its programmes of scientific publications and technical meetings.

190. The Institute cooperates in the operation of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, maintained by the Organization of American States (OAS), and participates in the meetings of Directors of Statistics organized by ECLAC.

191. The secretariat is organizing, jointly with FAO, and with the cooperation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the fourth session of the working group on agriculture statistics, to be held at Buenos Aires.

192. The series of seminars on applied statistics, initiated in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1987 and continued in Santiago, Chile, in 1989, had a third seminar on statistical methods in business and in the actuarial sciences, in Mexico in 1991. A fourth seminar in the series, organized in the areas of biostatistics, health and environment, will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1993. The possibility of conducting a seminar in Colombia in 1995 on applications of statistics in agriculture is being explored. A selection of the papers discussed at these seminars is published in the journal of the Institute.

193. The Institute is currently co-sponsoring additional technical meetings, such as the First Ibero-American Congress on Statistics and Operations Research, organized by the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research (Caceres, Spain, 1992) and the Fifth Latin American Congress on Probability and Mathematical Statistics, organized by the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1993).

WTO

194. Various missions on tourism statistics were carried out in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, the Niger and Guinea.

3. Other statistics, n.e.c

UNSTAT

195. The Statistical Yearbook was reorganized and redesigned starting from the thirty-seventh issue. World Statistics in Brief: United Nations Statistical Pocketbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics continued to be issued on a regular basis. An experimental microcomputer database of key economic and social statistical series and a directory of United Nations databases, "CORESTAT", was completed for testing based on the World Statistics in Brief.

ECE

196. A computerized database started in 1988/89 is being maintained and offered for on-line access to statistical offices of ECE member countries and international organizations.

ESCAP

197. The twenty-fifth report on sample surveys in the ESCAP region was produced and six issues of the Statistical Newsletter were published.

198. The following publications have been released on a regular basis: Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (annual); Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly); and Asia-Pacific in Figures (annual); three types of statistical databases relating to the above publications were developed on microcomputer.

ECLAC

199. Among its recurrent publications, the 1990 and 1991 editions of the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean included new statistical data and maintained timely delivery to users. Likewise, the coverage and accuracy of the Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy improved significantly. On the other hand, it should be noted that in 1991 the first edition of the Panorama Social de America Latina, edicion 1991, was launched. It will be published periodically each year; the statistical data come from household surveys and other social statistics, and are complemented with some economic statistics. A report on dissemination of statistical information and short-term indicators was issued.

ECA

200. In the field of statistical development, the following publications were issued: Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s; Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) News (3 issues); African Statistical Yearbook 1987 (4 parts); African Statistical Yearbook 1988/89 (vol. I); Bibliography of African Statistical Publications.

ESCWA

201. The third issue of the Unified Arab Statistical Abstract was prepared and published in 1990, in cooperation with the League of Arab States. Most of the publications programmed for 1990-1991 were terminated.

UNESCO

202. The 1990 and 1991 editions of the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook were issued in trilingual versions, with major texts also shown in Arabic and Russian.

World Bank

203. A major research programme on the methodological issues and comparability of data in transition countries was under way. A "factbook" on the transition economies was prepared, with the objective of disseminating a range of statistics that are of interest to a variety of users. In addition, the Bank has assembled a large body of data in respect of the successor States of the former Soviet Union. Estimates of GDP, external trade and other series have been prepared.

IMF

204. IMF continued to give high priority to the development and maintenance of its large-scale database of internationally comparable economic statistics.

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN THREE FUNCTIONAL AREAS

A. Classifications

UNSTAT

205. Work continued on completing commodity indexes for SITC, Rev.3. Amendments to SITC, Rev.3, were issued, reflecting amendments made to the HS. A review was undertaken with GATT of the overall future relationship between the HS and SITC (see E/CN.3/1993/15/Add.1). Work was carried out to develop correspondence tables between SITC, Rev. 3, ISIC, Rev. 3, the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC) and the HS and between ISIC, Rev. 3, and the activity classifications used in the past by countries in transition and to develop commodity indexes for ISIC, Rev. 3. A survey was carried out on the use of ISIC, CPC and SITC in countries.

ECE

206. A number of draft statistical classifications had been tested during data collection for the Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics, and the experiences gained in the test gave rise to amended classifications. In this way, the surface freshwater quality classification was finalized for approval by the Conference in 1992, and the environmental protection expenditures and

facilities classifications, as well as waste classification, were revised. Also, a first draft marine water quality classification was developed.

ILO

207. ILO issued a report on informal sector employment that emphasize the need for subclassifications of informal sector units and of the population employed in the informal sector by various characteristics.

208. A report was prepared for discussion by the Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics in January-February 1992. It summarized the issues concerning the revision and expansion of ICSE, made a number of suggestions based on the work that had been carried out since 1989 and presented a draft proposal for a revised and expanded ICSE.

209. Occupational Classifications. ISCO-88, containing complete descriptions of some 550 occupational groups, was published in English, French and Spanish.

WHO

210. The recommendations of the International Conference for the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) were adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 1990, and as a result ICD-10 is being finalized. A new format has been adopted with an alphanumeric coding scheme that allows for a considerably increased number of entries to fulfil the request of some member States for a very detailed classification of diseases.

211. The International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH), issued in 1980, is being updated to be compatible with ICD-10 in the categories used, and to take into account changes in the perception of disablement and in attitudes towards it.

WTO

212. Further to the Ottawa Conference, the following document was prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session: "Draft Standard International Classification of Tourism Activities (SICTA)" (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/83).

B. Coordination

UNSTAT

213. The Statistical Division undertook a review of its own functioning and set out its views on problems, challenges and proposals concerning strengthening international statistical cooperation. These were discussed extensively by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and a revised report was prepared as input to the work of the Statistical Commission's

Working Group on strengthening international statistical cooperation. The Division has worked with the other international organizations on following up the decisions and recommendations of the Working Group.

214. Action relating to coordination is reported in the various documents before the Commission on individual subjects, including the reports of the Statistical Commission Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination. In addition, the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, whose primary objective is the coordination of international statistical work, met once each year and its reports have been made available to members of the Commission.

215. During the past two years, while ongoing attention was provided to coordination in many areas, special attention has been given to (a) coordination of assistance in statistics to the countries in transition, (b) coordination of strategies for statistical development in Africa, (c) coordination towards monitoring the achievement of social goals in the 1990s and (d) environment statistics, national accounts and international trade statistics.

UNIDO

216. Contacts were maintained with various international organizations in order to facilitate data exchange.

C. Technological developments and databases

UNSTAT

217. Systems development work was undertaken to analyse and improve the quality and integrity of data held in the international trade statistics commodity trade database (COMTRADE) and to improve on-line user services. Systems work was commenced to enable the inclusion of trade data according to the HS in the database. An experimental microcomputer database of key economic and social statistical series and a directory of United Nations databases, "CORESTAT", was completed for testing based on World Statistics in Brief. Version 2 of the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (Wistat) was issued on microcomputer diskettes and the Wistat Users Guide and Reference Manual was submitted for publication. The Demographic Yearbook Database, developed prior to the advent of the microcomputer, has now been strengthened, with financial support from UNFPA, to provide microcomputer users with available demographic and related statistics. This activity is intended to meet rising demand, in particular from microcomputer users, and to permit rapid retrieval of 50-year time series for various population studies (see, also, E/CN.3/1993/12).

218. Agreements were concluded with a number of private sector non-governmental organizations to incorporate United Nations data in machine-readable databases for sale.

ECE

219. In the field of statistical information technology, the main focus was on the finalization of the products of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, phase 2 (SCP-2). The final list of SCP-2 products and the products themselves were made available to SCP-2 member countries and also to some developing countries. In addition, a special readings volume on statistical data editing methods and techniques was published. A computerized database started in 1988/89 is being maintained and offered for on-line access to statistical offices of ECE member countries and international organizations.

ESCAP

220. Three types of statistical databases relating to the publications Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific and Asia-Pacific in Figures, were developed on microcomputer.

ECA

221. In the field of statistical development, the following publication was issued: Directory of Electronic Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa, 1991.

UNCTAD

222. Statistical and computing support was provided to the substantive divisions of UNCTAD and its committees. An Economic Time Series Data Bank (ETS) has been developed to provide a framework for storing, in a standardized manner, machine-readable data available to UNCTAD to permit statistical and economic analysis to be carried out in an efficient and effective manner. ETS has been developed in-house as well as a table-generating programme for accessing the standardized data and preparing a wide variety of reports. In addition, interfaces have been written to enable economists and statisticians to use the data in ETS as direct input to standard econometric and statistical computing packages.

223. UNCTAD has also developed a trade information system on trade control measures of the developing countries. The database provides a computerized link between foreign trade statistics at the country and product level and the corresponding tariffs, para-tariffs and non-tariff measures, as well as preferential trading arrangements affecting trade among the developing countries.

ILO

224. Work continued on the improvement and expansion of ILO labour statistics databases and users' access to them (LABORSTA). More LABORSTA data were disseminated on computer-readable media, mainly on diskettes; such extracts were made from all but one of the chapters of the Year Book. The statistical coverage of the on-line system was also extended to cover LABORSTA data for nearly all the chapters of the Year Book.

FAO

225. In 1991, the new product AGROSTAT.PC was released to disseminate, on floppy disks, a large part of the statistical data bank. Implementation of the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) project continued in 1990, with the establishment of corporate rules and standards regarding data content, coding of data sources and quality and statistical methodology to be applied. Several DBMS were also tested and finally a software (INGRES) was selected. In 1991 a systems development team started the customization of INGRES software.

UNESCO

226. The autonomous and integrated software package for the analysis, diagnosis and assessment of quantitative development of education systems EDSTATS, which was first issued in 1988 and widely distributed, was further developed and a new version, EDSTATS Plus, was issued. Preliminary work was started towards the development of a statistical database to function on the local area network (LAN) of the Division of Statistics.

ICAO

227. The second recommendation of the Statistics Panel concerned automation plans for the ICAO statistics programme. The Panel concluded that, in order to improve the efficiency and quality of the ICAO statistics programme, as well as to reflect trends and positive experience among member States, the Organization should place increased emphasis on the use of microcomputers and diskettes. This recommendation was also approved by the Council but its full implementation was somewhat hampered by a shortage of funds.

WHO

228. The WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS) was established in 1990, and is available on-line throughout WHO headquarters. It brings together a wide variety of computerized health and health-related databases and applications, both within and outside WHO.

World Bank

229. The use of CD-ROMs as a media for data dissemination was further developed in a joint programme with IMF. Bank data sets are now being disseminated through the STARS system, an approach utilizing compressed data sets on PC-diskettes with features that permit data manipulation. Software for processing ICP are being developed in conjunction with EUROSTAT.

IMF

230. The Fund's computerized database system, the Economic Information System (EIS), which covers data reported by more than 221 member countries and other States, now includes almost 2 million time series, mostly maintained on a monthly basis.

GATT

231. A recent initiative is the development of GETS (GATT's Economic Time Series). The purpose of GETS is to give GATT staff easy access to a number of selected statistical time series most commonly used in their everyday work. At present, accessing data from IMF, the World Bank, ECE, UNCTAD, EUROSTAT, UNSTAT and other sources imply for the user familiarity with the various databases in terms of format, extraction and manipulation. In other words, one expects a user to master the many different softwares, acquire knowledge of the content of various databases and have the ability to link properly the extracted data from different sources. GETS proposes to store the most relevant information in a uniform format and to provide users with a flexible generalized statistical programme for calculating, tabulating and charting. In addition, a user's manual, including methodological notes on sources and methods, is to be made available for each series stored in GETS.

III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

232. The Commission may wish to comment on (a) the work carried out in the various subject areas by international organizations during the period under review and (b) the usefulness of the present report structured on a subject-matter basis. The Commission may also wish to provide additional guidance on the preferred coverage and focus of this report for the future, to better meet the needs of the Commission.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 5 (E/1991/25 and Corr.1).